

Public Document Pack



GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 9 October 2024

Time: 6.00pm,

Location: Council Chamber

**Contact: Alex Marsh (01438) 242587
committees@stevenage.gov.uk**

Members: Councillors: E Plater (Chair), S Barr (Vice-Chair), M Arceno, R Boyle, P Clark, A Elekolusi, A Gordon, C Houlihan, M Humberstone, L Martin-Haugh, C Parris, G Snell, A Wells and T Wren.

AGENDA

PART 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES - 14 DECEMBER 2023

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 14 December 2023.

3 – 6

3. HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF REVIEW

To review the current hackney carriage fares/tariffs.

7 – 32

4. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

To consider any Part I business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider the following motions –

1. That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in Paragraphs 1 – 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

To consider any Part II business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

Agenda Published 1 October 2024

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Thursday, 14 December 2023

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: Councillors: Claire Parris (Chair), Maureen McKay (Vice-Chair), Michael Downing, Chris Howells, Graham Lawrence CC, Lin Martin-Haugh, Margaret Notley, Graham Snell and Anne Wells.

Start / End Start Time: 6.00pm
Time: End Time: 6.36pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Sandra Barr, Nazmin Chowdhury and Mrs Joan Lloyd.

Councillor Chris Howells declared a personal interest in Item 3 – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy, as he was a Taxi Driver licensed by Transport for London.

2 MINUTES - 30 OCTOBER 2023

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 30 October 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY

The Environmental Health Commercial & Licensing Manager presented a report seeking approval to a revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

The Environmental Health Commercial & Licensing Manager advised that the Policy was last reviewed in 2014. The Policy outlined how the Service would administer this statutory duty from receiving applications to enforcing the Policy and conditions contained within it.

The Environmental Health Commercial & Licensing Manager stated that there were fundamental changes from the policies agreed in 2014. Structurally, the Policy outlined arrangements for all strands of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing (drivers, operators and vehicles) in one document. Previously there were three separate policies.

With regard to content, the Environmental Health Commercial & Licensing Manager explained that the Policy attempted to accommodate all aspects of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing, which expanded the document in comparison to

its predecessors. More information was provided about how the Service operated. The Policy aimed to ensure that the Service:

- Met the Statutory Guidance;
- Met Best Practice;
- Was updated in accordance with the introduction of new legislation; and
- Was transparent in its approach to licence holders.

The main changes/updates to the Policy related to:

- Mandatory training for licence holders in safeguarding;
- Mandatory training for licence holders for disability awareness following the amendment to the Equalities Act 2010;
- Introduction of a suitability policy, superseding the current convictions policy for licence holders;
- An updated definition of 'fit and proper';
- Introduction of an enforcement policy outlining how the Service would ensure the Policy conditions and legislative standards were maintained during the life of a licence; and
- Conditions for drivers, operators and vehicles had been revised.

The Environmental Health Commercial & Licensing Manager commented that, in addition, the Policy offered a response to Stevenage Borough Council declared climate emergency by phasing out older cars from the fleet. Following liaison with the Head of Climate Action, the Policy removed Euro 4 vehicles from the fleet – this would provide a reasonable saving on CO2 emissions. Currently, there was no short-term plan to remove the next oldest generation (Euro 5) vehicles from the fleet. However, it would be possible for a review of the Policy, as necessary, in regard to this aspect. This would be seen as a substantial change to Policy, requiring consultation.

The Environmental Health Commercial & Licensing Manager advised that the Policy had been developed following two rounds of consultation, and comments made during this process had formed the Policy position. The first consultation was undertaken in January-February 2023. The Service received a number of responses to this consultation (76). Two responses contained petitions signed by numerous drivers against the age policy for new and existing vehicles, leading to the 162 negative comments being counted for this point. The second consultation spanned September – November 2023 and 2 responses were received. The comments from both consultation exercises were set out in the report and its appendices.

The Environmental Health Commercial & Licensing Manager stated that final proof reading was undertaken and the Policy had been altered accordingly.

The Committee noted that it was anticipated that the Policy would be implemented on 1 April 2024. This was to accommodate changes that licence holders and the Service needed to make. The Service would notify licence holders of their new obligations to meet the Policy in advance of this date.

The Environmental Health Commercial & Licensing Manager recommended that the Committee agree the Policy, reflecting the changes outlined in Appendix D to the report.

At the Chair's invitation, Members asked a number of questions which the Environmental Health Commercial & Licensing Manager, assisted by the Licensing Officer, answered as follows:

- the fee structure for the Licensing Service accommodated a certain element of informal vehicle inspection and enforcement. When formal action was required, the Council would always endeavour to recoup its costs;
- the percentage of wheelchair Hackney Carriage accessible vehicles (30%) was unchanged in the proposed new Policy;
- the training for drivers was a mixture of virtual and in-person sessions. New applicants would be required to complete training prior to receiving their licences, and existing drivers would be required to complete it within 12 months of their licence renewal date after the date of the adoption of the new Policy;
- the new penalty points scheme in the Policy was used by other Licensing Authorities. The maximum number of points was 12, over a rolling 18 month period. This was different from the DVLA penalty points system;
- vehicles were inspected and subject to an MOT every 6 months. If repairs were required then the Licensing Team would remove the vehicle from the road until the repairs were undertaken (the Policy had been strengthened to take account of action required by virtue of MOT advisory notes);
- there was a mechanism for reporting issues with licensed vehicles and/or drivers, either on-line through the SBC website, via phone calls or through e-mails;
- the various driver tests were administered under examination conditions – the spoken English test was delivered via a mobile app; the Knowledge test in-person, with one of the Licensing Officers invigilating; and the professional driver test via a third party provider;
- the National Register of Revocations and Suspensions was a mechanism for licensing authorities to share details of individuals who have had a hackney carriage/taxi or private hire driver's licence revoked, suspended or an application for one refused;
- the Policy was supportive of cameras being installed within vehicles, but this was not a mandatory requirement. Full consultation would be needed should

the Licensing Authority wish to mandate the installation of cameras;

- the Policy would be reviewed in full in 5 years' time, but would be developed over that time (including managing the fleet in terms of CO2 emissions); and
- all drivers (both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire) were required to undertake the Knowledge test. If users had any issues with any driver in this regard they were encouraged to report this to the Licensing Team.

The Committee was supportive of the new Policy, and thanked the Licensing Team for the extensive work carried out in its preparation.

It was **RESOLVED** that the proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy, as attached at Appendix A to the report and reflecting the changes outlined in Appendix D, be agreed, with an implementation date of 1 April 2024.

4 URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.

5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

6 URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR

Meeting General Purposes Committee
Portfolio Area Communities, Community Safety and Equalities

Date

HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF REVIEW

NON KEY DECISION

Authors Mary O'Sullivan | 2236

Lead Officers Julie Dwan | 2493

Contact Officer Julie Dwan | 2493

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To review the current hackney carriage fares tariffs.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee determines the options to review the tariff and determine whether the tariff should be increased or remain at the current level.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The fixing of fares for hackney carriages within the district is governed by the Council by virtue of section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. This must be published by means of a tariff table. The last change in fares took effect on 1st August 2023; a copy of the current tariff table is attached as Appendix 1.

3.2 It was resolved at GP Committee meeting 24 March 2022 that there will be an annual review of taxi tariffs.

3.3 To review taxi tariffs, the Licensing Authority has undertaken preliminary consultation with the trade (all hackney carriage and private hire drivers and operators) to ascertain options to include in the consultation. A summary of the results of the preliminary engagement survey can be seen in Appendix 2. Copies of all responses received will

be available for scrutiny by the General Purposes Committee upon request. This information will not be publicly available in line with General Data Protection Regulations.

- 3.4 A Notice was advertised in the local press on 5th and 12th September 2024 and a copy made available for inspection at the Council offices for the same period in accordance with the legislation. Copies of the newspaper notices are attached as Appendix 3 and a copy of the public notice is attached as Appendix 4.
- 3.5 In addition, all licensed drivers and licensed private hire operators in the Council's area have been contacted via email or letter advising recipients of the review consultation. A copy of this correspondence is attached as Appendix 5.
- 3.6 The public notices required any comments or option preferences to be made in writing or through completion of a survey. Comments/option preferences had been received by response of survey from 32 persons. dual licensed drivers (16 as Hackney Carriage Drivers and 14 as Private Hire Drivers), 2 Private Hire Operators and 0 members of the public:

Questions 1-2 – Were to be answered by everyone,

Questions 3-7 – Answered by Hackney Carriage Drivers only,

Questions 8-12 – Answered by Private Hire Drivers only,

Questions 13-18 – Answered by Private Hire Operators only,

Questions 19-23 – Answered by members of the public only.

A summary of the consultation survey response is attached as appendix 6. Copies of all responses received will be available for scrutiny by the General Purposes Committee upon request. This information will not be publicly available in line with General Data Protection Regulations.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The Private Hire and Taxi Monthly magazine, a trade publication, maintains a national fare table which provides useful comparisons of taxi tariffs between local authorities. The position in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire is summarised in table 1 below.
- 4.2 If the proposed Option 1 tariff were adopted Stevenage fares would be on a par with Waverley, Rochford and Southend on Sea; a total of 10 local authorities currently has a charge of £7.80 for a two-mile journey.
- 4.3 If the proposed Option 2 tariff were adopted Stevenage fares would cost £7.85 for a two-mile journey which isn't charged by any other authority. Only one local authority - Rother, currently has a charge of £7.90 for a two-mile journey.
- 4.4 If the proposed Option 3 tariff were adopted, Stevenage fares would be on a par with Three Rivers, Bristol, and Leicester; a total of 15 local authorities currently have a charge of £7.60 for a two-mile journey.

Table 1: Comparison of local taxi fares

National ranking	Local authority	Tariff One (two-mile fare)
11	St Albans	£9.15
36	Watford	£8.40
43	East Herts	£8.20
42	Broxbourne	£8.20
59	Central Beds	£8.05
	Stevenage (Proposed T2)	£7.85
	Stevenage (Proposed T1)	£7.80
86	Dacorum	£7.70
104	Three Rivers	£7.60
102	Stevenage Current/Proposed T3	£7.60
117	North Herts	£7.50
152	Luton	£7.20
132	National Average	£7.18
186	Welwyn Hatfield	£7.00
178	Hertsmere	£7.00
196	Bedford	£6.80

- 4.5 The proposed increase options were considered warranted due to costs resulting from, the common use of card payment facilities that incur a transaction fee and the rising costs of living, incorporating fuel, maintenance, replacing vehicles and station permits.
- 4.6 In April 2024 the average price of a litre of unleaded petrol was 145.72 pence while a litre of diesel was 163.8 pence. In June 2023 the average prices were 143.15 pence and 145.93 pence respectively (source: RACfoundation.org) Filling up the average car (55 ltrs) in October 2023 was £86 and this cost in September 2024 was £75 [Weekly road fuel prices - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/weekly-road-fuel-prices)
- 4.7 Regarding other motoring costs, since April 2023 all costs of motoring have increased by 5.58% with maintenance costs having increased by an average of 9.22% while tax and insurance have increased by an average of 62.98% - all since April 2023 (source: RACfoundation.org).
- 4.8 In terms of changes in the cost of living in cost of living, The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) including rose by 2.1% in the 12 months to August 2024, with the Consumer Price Index including Owner Occupier (CPIH) rising by 3.1% in the 12 months to August 2024. On a monthly basis, CPI rose by 0.4% in August 2024, compared with a rise of 0.7% in May 2023. Rising prices for air travel, recreational and cultural goods and services, and second-hand cars resulted in the largest upward contributions to the monthly change in the CPI annual rates. (source: www.ons.gov.uk).

- 4.9 In Stevenage hackney carriages are required by licence conditions to be fitted with taximeters. Private hire vehicles may also fit taximeters, and in practice many do, but the tariff only applies by law to hackney carriages. The extant tariff must be programmed into hackney carriage taximeters, which are then bound by the fare displayed on the meter at the end of the journey; that is, they must not charge any more than the figure displayed. Private hire drivers and operators have an interest in the hackney carriage tariff since it may be programmed into their taximeters but in practice, they are entitled to charge any fare they desire, provided it has been agreed with the passenger or passengers before a journey begins.

- 4.10 Several of the larger operators in Stevenage charge in accordance with fixed price promotions on a permanent basis; £9 maximum fee for one pick up and drop off in the Stevenage area from 9am to 9pm. In certain instances, this could result in fares for longer journeys within the town made with private hire vehicles and drivers operated by these companies undercutting the cost of equivalent journeys in a Hackney Carriage. Journeys in a private hire vehicle could only be made following advanced booking, however it should also be noted however that the income of large operators depends largely on the number of drivers they have on their circuits and the extent of their accumulation of the corporate and contract markets rather than fare levels per se.

- 4.11 We received 11 general comments about taxi fares in the free text question. The table below shows the main themes of the comments and the number of comments we identified within each theme with a summary of the responses available upon request.

Theme	Number of Respondents
Taxi fares should be increased because of cost of living/running costs/overheads of taxi drivers (e.g. fuel, card processing, app fees, vehicle costs, maintenance)	2
Taxi fares are already expensive/too high/should be reduced (general comments)	0
Fares are fair/competitive and should stay the same	3
Fares should increase by small amounts/with inflation each year	3
Only the start price should increase. Mileage should stay the same.	1
Taxi fare increase for mileage only	1
Taxi fare increase for starting fare only	1

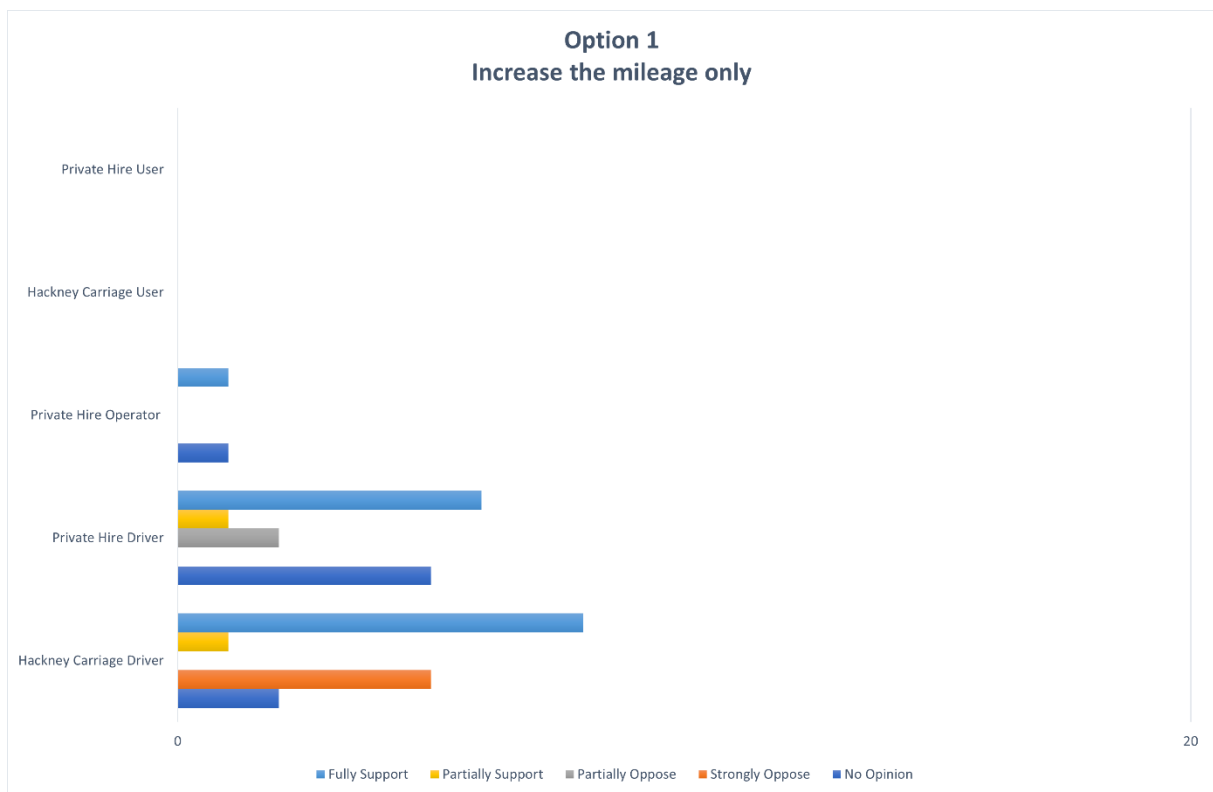
4.12 Summary of responses relating to Option 1

32 people responded to this option. We found that:

- 17 of all respondents supported this option,
- 1 Private Hire Operator fully supported this option & 1 had no opinion,
- 5 Hackney Drivers Opposed this option,
- 2 Private hire drivers opposed this option,
- 8 of all respondents had no opinion.

The chart below shows the response rates from each respondent type.

Option 1	Hackney Carriage Driver	Private Hire Driver	Private Hire Operator	Hackney Carriage User	Private Hire User
No Opinion	2	5	1	0	0
Strongly Oppose	5	0	0	0	0
Partially Oppose	0	2	0	0	0
Partially Support	1	1	0	0	0
Fully Support	8	6	1	0	0

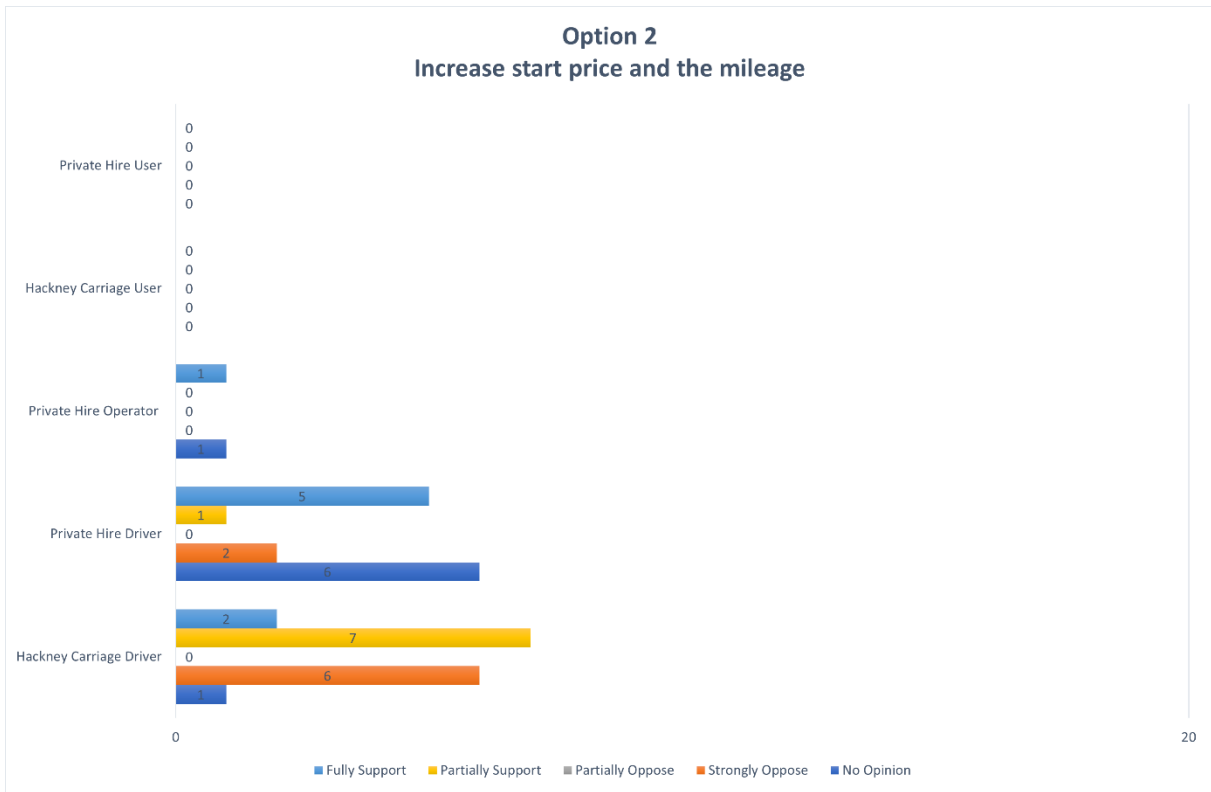


Summary of responses relating to Option 2

- 32 people responded to this option. We found that:
- 16 respondents overall supported this option,
 - 1 Operator supported this option, 1 had no opinion,
 - 6 Hackney drivers opposed this option,
 - 2 Private hire drivers opposed this option,
 - 8 respondents overall had no opinion,

The chart below shows response rates from each respondent type.

Option 2	Hackney Carriage Driver	Private Hire Driver	Private Hire Operator	Hackney Carriage User	Private Hire User
No Opinion	1	6	1	0	0
Strongly Oppose	6	2	0	0	0
Partially Oppose	0	0	0	0	0
Partially Support	7	1	0	0	0
Fully Support	2	5	1	0	0

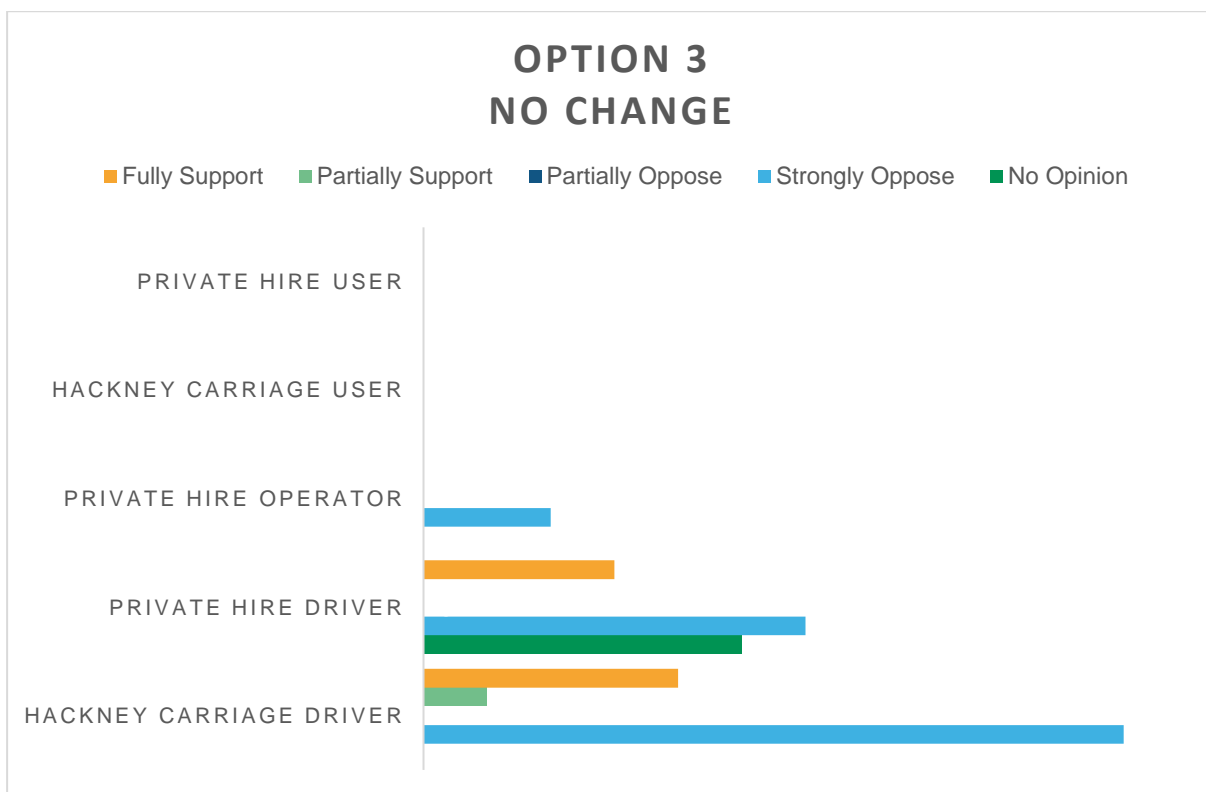


Summary of responses relating to Option 3

- 32 people responded to this option. We found that:
- 8 Respondents overall supported this option,
 - 6 Private Hire drivers opposed this option,
 - 8 Hackney drivers opposed this option,
 - 2 Private hire operators opposed this option,
 - 5 Respondents overall had no opinion.

The chart below shows response rates from each respondent type.

	Hackney Carriage Driver	Private Hire Driver	Private Hire Operator	Hackney Carriage User	Private Hire User
Option 3					
No Opinion	0	5	0	0	0
Strongly Oppose	11	6	2	0	0
Partially Oppose	0	0	0	0	0
Partially Support	1	0	0	0	0
Fully Support	4	3	0	0	0



5 OPTIONS FOR ACTION

5.1 Committee is now invited to review the proposed taxi tariff change. The options are to:

- a) Accept the proposal as submitted and apply the new tariff on 21st October 2024, or nominate a date which is not more than two months after the operational date specified in the public notice.
- b) Modify the submitted proposal and apply the new tariff effective from 21st October, or nominate a date not more than two months after the operational date specified in the public notice.
- c) Leave the current tariff in place unaltered. There is no specific facility in the legislation to enable this and so in effect the current tariff would have to be re-implemented following the process at b) above.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 There are no direct resource implications for the Council arising from the content of this report.

6.2 Legal Implications

6.2.1 There is no right of appeal against the fares once set. The only remedy for an aggrieved party would be to seek a judicial review.

6.2.2 The Committee's attention is also drawn to section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which requires local authorities to consider the community safety implications of all their activities. This is a corporate responsibility of the authority as a whole.

6.3 Policy implications

6.3.1 There are no policy implications arising from the content of this report.

6.4 Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.4.1 Any decision by the Committee is based on evidence before it at the meeting; there are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

7 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976;

Town Police Clauses Act 1847

8 APPENDICES

1. Current Tariff Table
2. Preliminary Trade Engagement Survey Summary
3. Newspaper notice
4. Public Notice of the proposals for review
5. Email to trade re Consultation Survey
6. Taxi Tariff & Fares – Annual Review Survey Summary.

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Taxi Fares from 1st August 2023



Typical Fares

Note that fares and times may be higher than shown dependent on delays or slow moving traffic. The fare shown, on the face of the meter, at the conclusion of the journey is the maximum fare that can be demanded; unless previously agreed with the driver as above.

Tariff Code on the meter		1	2	3
Distance	Approximate journey time	Day-time 06.00 – 23.00 (see over)	Night-time 23.00 – 06.00 + Public Holidays (see over)	Christmas & New Year (see over)
1 mile	3 – 5 minutes	£5.40	£8.10	£10.80
2 miles	6 – 8 minutes	£7.80	£11.40	£15.20
3 miles	9 -12 minutes	£9.80	£14.70	£19.60
5miles	15 – 20 minutes	£14.20	£21.30	£28.40
10 miles	20 – 30 minutes	£25.20	£37.80	£50.40

The meter calculates the maximum fare based upon the time of day, the distance travelled and the vehicle speed.

N.B. The meter should not be started until the journey commences

Drivers must, unless they have good cause, accept any hiring that is wholly within the Stevenage boundary. Hirings beyond the Stevenage boundary are at the discretion of the driver.

The fare for a journey to a destination outside of the Stevenage boundary may be negotiated between the driver and hirer. If no fare is agreed before the start of the journey, the fare cannot be more than that shown on the meter.

The driver of this vehicle is legally obliged to carry assistance dogs – unless a medical exemption certificate is displayed within the vehicle.

Wheelchairs, walking frames and assistance dogs travel at no extra cost.

Hackney Carriage Table of Maximum Fares



TARIFF 1 - Applicable between 06:00 and 23:00 hours Monday to Sunday

For the first 528 yards	£3.80p
for each additional 160 yards (or part thereof)	20p
<i>(The equivalent of £2.20 for each additional mile)</i>	
Waiting time = 30 pence per minute	

TARIFF 2 - Applicable between 23:00 and 06:00 hours Monday to Sunday + 06.00 to 23.00 hours on designated bank/public holidays & Easter Sunday + 18.00 – 23.00 hours on New Year's Eve and 18.00 to 24.00 hours on Christmas Eve

For the first 528 yards	£5.70p
for each additional 160 yards (or part thereof)	30p
<i>(The equivalent of £3.30 for each additional mile)</i>	
Waiting time = 45 pence per minute	

TARIFF 3 - Applicable all day on Christmas Day and Boxing Day + 23.00 hours on New Years Eve to 06.00 hours on New Years Day.

For the first 528 yards	£7.60p
for each additional 160 yards (or part thereof)	40p
<i>(The equivalent of £4.40 for each additional mile)</i>	
Waiting time = 60 pence per minute	

Additional charges (which must be added on the meter at the start of the journey)

Up to two items of baggage or shopping	20p
Three or more items of baggage or shopping	40p
For each person in excess of one	20p

Maximum Soiling charge (for whatever reason)	£50
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Additional charges should total no more than £2.00
Wheelchairs, walking frames and assistance dogs travel at no extra cost.

Complaints should be made to the Licensing department at Stevenage Borough Council via, licensing@stevenage.gov.uk quoting the vehicle registration mark, licence number and/or the driver's badge number.

2024 Taxi Tariff Review - Preliminary Trade Engagement

58

Responses

04:27

Average time to complete

Closed

Status

1.

58

Responses

Latest Responses

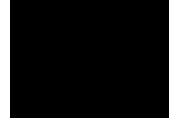


2. Badge Number

58

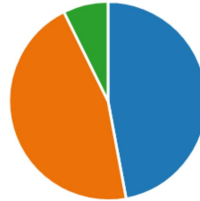
Responses

Latest Responses



3. Which of these options apply to you? (tick all that apply)

- Hackney Carriage Driver 32
- Private Hire Driver 31
- Private Hire Operator 5



4. Which of the following options would be your preferred outcome from the 2024 Tariff Review?

- Taxi Tariff Increase 40
- Taxi Tariff Decrease 0
- No Change to Tariff 18



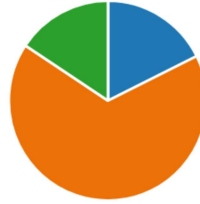
5. For an increase - which of these options would you prefer?

- Increase Tariff 1 only 11
- Increase all Tariffs 40



6. For an increase - which of these options would you prefer?

- Only increase the start price 9
- Increase both the start price an... 34
- Only increase the mileage 8



7. What level of increase would you support? (CPI = Consumer Price Index - 2.0% as of June 2024)

- In line with CPI 36
- Above CPI 12
- Below CPI 3



8. Do you have any suggestions or comments?

25
Responses

Latest Responses

"I don't think a tariff increase is advisable at this moment. Most drivers are already..."
"None"

Public Notices



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 Probate Notices | Other Notices | Church and Religious Notices
 Tenders and Contracts | Goods Vehicle Operator Licences

TRAFFIC & Roads

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 65 Taxi fares and tariffs consultation – Annual Review 2024

The Licensing Authority is consulting upon varying the taxi fares and tariffs. This is an annual consultation.

Consultation options

We are not consulting on a single proposal involving increasing taxi fares and tariffs.

Instead for this consultation we are interested in your views on the following options:

Option	Details
1	Increase the mileage only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeze the initial fare at £3.80 This option would increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 3%
2	Increase start price and mileage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the initial fare by 5 pence (£3.80 to £3.85) Increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 4%
3	No change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeze the initial fare at £3.80 Freeze Tariffs 1, 2 and 3

Additional and soiling charges remain unchanged;

Additional charges (which must be added on the meter at the start of the journey)

Up to two items of baggage or shopping: 20 pence

Three or more items of baggage or shopping: 40 pence (maximum)

For each person in excess of one: 20 pence

Additional charges should total no more than £2:00

Soiling charge (for whatever reason) £50 (maximum)

The above tariff is proposed to take effect from 21 October 2024

A copy of this notice will be available for inspection at the Council Offices during public opening hours. The consultation review and supporting information are available at <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/have-your-say/taxi-fares-and-tariffs-consultation-annual-review-2024> to complete. Paper copies are available from the Customer Service Centre, Daneshill House.

Any comments and option preference to the above consultation review must be made in writing to:

The Commercial and Licensing Manager, Stevenage Borough Council, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage, SG1 1HN or via email to licensing@stevenage.gov.uk no later than 18 September 2024.

Dated: 5 September 2024

Signed: Zayd Al-Jawad
 Assistant Director of Planning and Regulation

You'd want to know if someone was planning to dig up the road next to your house, right?

Don't be caught out

Every day hundreds of applications are made for permission to close roads.

The **Public Notice Portal** is a free to use, online service that will tell you who is applying for what and for where. It's free to use and if you register and tell us the area you are interested in, we'll keep checking the updates and will email to tell you about any plans for your community before they become a reality.

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Wheatley
Housebuilding Company operating in the Northern Home Counties requires
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Based in Letchworth

Must have experience in purchasing land as part of a team and in managing all relevant pre-construction activities.

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Wheatley
Housebuilding Company operating in the Northern Home Counties requires
BENCH JOINER
Based in Letchworth

Must have experience in construction industry, using woodworking machines and fitting of joinery. Minimum requirements are NVQ Level 2 and CSCS Card.

Please phone or email reception
WHEATLEY WINTON HAYES LIMITED
WHEATLEY HOUSE, DUNHAMS LANE
LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY, HERTS, SG6 1BE
Tel: 01462 707000
Email: reception@wheatley.co.uk
www.wheatley.co.uk



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t: **01268 533933**
e: **se-sales@localiq.co.uk**

TRAFFIC & Roads

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 65 Taxi fares and tariffs consultation – Annual Review 2024

The Licensing Authority is consulting upon varying the taxi fares and tariffs. This is an annual consultation.

Consultation options

We are not consulting on a single proposal involving increasing taxi fares and tariffs.

Instead for this consultation we are interested in your views on the following options:

Option	Details
1	Increase the mileage only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeze the initial fare at £3.80 This option would increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 3%
2	Increase start price and mileage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the initial fare by 5 pence (£3.80 to £3.85) Increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 4%
3	No change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeze the initial fare at £3.80 Freeze Tariffs 1, 2 and 3

Additional and soiling charges remain unchanged; Additional charges (which must be added on the meter at the start of the journey)

Up to two items of baggage or shopping: 20 pence
Three or more items of baggage or shopping: 40 pence (maximum)

For each person in excess of one: 20 pence

Additional charges should total no more than £2:00

Soiling charge (for whatever reason) £50 (maximum)

The above tariff is proposed to take effect from 21 October 2024

A copy of this notice will be available for inspection at the Council Offices during public opening hours. The consultation review and supporting information are available at <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/have-your-say/taxi-fares-and-tariffs-consultation-annual-review-2024> to complete. Paper copies are available from the Customer Service Centre, Daneshill House.

Any comments and option preference to the above consultation review must be made in writing to:

The Commercial and Licensing Manager, Stevenage Borough Council, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage, SG1 1HN or via email to licensing@stevenage.gov.uk no later than 18 September 2024.

Dated: 5 September 2024

Signed: Zayd Al-Jawad
Assistant Director of Planning and Regulation

You'd want to know if you'd been left something in a will, right?

Don't be caught out

Every day applications are made for **estate to be settled or inheritance** notices.

The **Public Notice Portal** is a free to use, online service that will tell you who is applying for what and for where. It's free to use and if you register and tell us the area you are interested in, we'll keep checking the updates and will email to tell you about any plans for your community before they become a reality.

Find, save and share **Public Notices** that affect you in your local area.



Public Notice Portal

Telling you their plans before they become your problems

PLANNING



www.north-herts.gov.uk

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
Council Offices,
Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City,
Herts, SG6 3JF

The following **PROPOSALS** are the subject of an application submitted to the Council.

PROPOSAL AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA

24/01844/FPH 11 Garden Fields Offley Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3DF

Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Insertion of rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion. Alterations to fenestration

24/01798/FP Lunchmate The Colonnade Station Place Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3AQ

Change of use, Class E to Sui Generis (R), food takeaway - alterations to shopfront, installation of canopy and ventilation system.

PROPOSAL AFFECTING A LISTED BUILDING OR A BUILDING OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST

24/01888/LBC 16 Bancroft Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1JQ

Installation of a metal awning box and retractable fabric awning and repainting of shopfront. Internal alterations

24/01810/LBC 32 Bancroft Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1LA

Replacement of existing timber weatherboarding with Cedral fibre cement weatherboarding

24/01801/LBC 70 Norton Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1AE

Internal modifications to reinstate original opening and fireplace following removal of existing serving hatch and fireplace.

24/01730/LBC Blarney Hollow School Lane Rushden Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 0SG

Raise existing chimney stack.

PROPOSAL AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING AND AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA

24/01729/FPH Blarney Hollow School Lane Rushden Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 0SG

Raise existing chimney stack.

24/01886/FP 16 Bancroft Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1JQ

Use of existing rear hardstanding to outdoor seating area; installation of a metal awning box and retractable fabric awning and repainting of shopfront

The application details can be viewed on the Council's web site at www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/planning. Any person who wishes to make representations about the PROPOSAL should submit them in writing to this office by no later than 23 days from the date of this notice. For householder applications, in the event of an appeal against refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

Shaun Greaves -

Development and Conservation Manager

Correspondence address:

North Herts Council, PO Box 10613,

Nottingham, NG6 6DW

Date: 12/09/2024

PROBATE & Trustee

MICHAEL JOHN GOOCH Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of 32 Sycamore Close, St. Ippolyts, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7SN, who died on 08/01/2024, must send written particulars to the address below by 13/11/2024, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.

Jane Marland
c/o Susan Hall & Co,
24-25 Market Place, Hitchin,
SG5 1DT. Ref: JEM.Gooch.G910

What are Public Notices and what is their purpose?

Public notices are adverts placed by councils and other local authorities to inform people of developments in their areas. They can cover a wide variety of topics that may impact your life. They can include planning applications and appeals, road closures or proposals by pubs or nightclubs hoping to change their opening hours or make other variations. The purpose of a public notice is to make sure anybody - either an individual or a group - with an interest has an opportunity to find out about and comment on the proposal before a decision is made on whether to allow it to go ahead.

Visit our dedicated website:
publicnoticeportal.uk/stevenage-comet

To view more Public Notices in your area

Visit our dedicated website:
publicnoticeportal.uk/stevenage-comet

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 65

Taxi fares and tariffs consultation – Annual Review 2024

The Licensing Authority is consulting upon varying the taxi fares and tariffs. This is an annual consultation.

Consultation options

We are not consulting on a single proposal involving increasing taxi fares and tariffs. Instead for this consultation we are interested in your views on the following options:

Option	Details
1	<p>Increase the mileage only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeze the initial fare at £3.80 • This option would increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 3%
2	<p>Increase start price and mileage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the initial fare by 5 pence (£3.80 to £3.85) • Increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 4%
3	<p>No change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeze the initial fare at £3.80 • Freeze Tariffs 1, 2 and 3

Additional and soiling charges remain unchanged;

Additional charges (which must be added on the meter at the start of the journey)

Up to two items of baggage or shopping: 20 pence
 Three or more items of baggage or shopping: 40 pence (maximum)
 For each person in excess of one: 20 pence
 Additional charges should total no more than £2:00

Soiling charge (for whatever reason) £50 (maximum)

The above tariff is proposed to take effect from 21 October 2024

A copy of this notice will be available for inspection at the Council Offices during public opening hours. The consultation review and supporting information are available at <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/have-your-say> to complete. Paper copies are available from the Customer Service Centre, Daneshill House.

Any comments and option preference to the above consultation review must be made in writing to:

The Commercial and Licensing Manager, Stevenage Borough Council, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage, SG1 1HN or via email to licensing@stevenage.gov.uk no later than 18 September 2024.

Dated: 5 September 2024



Signed: Zayd Al-Jawad
 Assistant Director of Planning and Regulation

From: Licensing <Licensing@stevenage.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 1:33 PM
To: Licensing <Licensing@stevenage.gov.uk>
Subject: Taxi Tariff Review 2024 Survey Link - Driver copy

Good day

Following the preliminary engagement survey, please find attached the link for the taxi tariff review.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Jy7kHesyKe>

The consultation survey should take no longer than a couple of minutes to complete. To assist you, please see the attached consultation options document for the details of the proposed changes to the tariff.

The survey is open until 23:59 on 18 September and all responses will be included in the committee report along with the responses to the preliminary engagement, which has helped shaped this consultation.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Office on 01438 242274

Yours sincerely
Licensing Administration

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Taxi Tariff & Fares - Annual Review

32
Responses

06:48
Average time to complete

Closed
Status

1. Please let us know what you think of the current minimum fare and taxi tariffs

27
Responses

Latest Responses

"too reasonable"

"It's ok."

2. In which capacity are you completing this consultation survey?

● Hackney Carriage Driver	16
● Private Hire Driver	14
● Private Hire Operator	2
● Member of Public	0



3. Full Name

16
Responses

Latest Responses

4. Email Address

16
Responses

Latest Responses

5. Badge Number

16
Responses

Latest Responses

6. Please let us know your views on the options on taxi fares outlined in this consultation:

Option 1

Increase the mileage only

Freeze the minimum fare at £3.80

This option would increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 3%

Option 2

Increase start price and mileage

Increase the minimum fare by 5 pence (£3.80 to £3.85)

Increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 4%

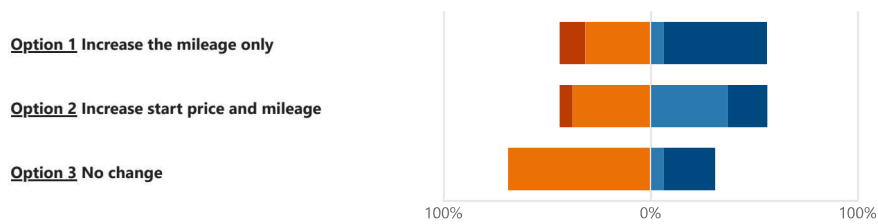
Option 3

No change

Freeze the minimum fare at £3.80

Freeze Tariffs 1, 2 and 3

■ No Opinion ■ Strongly Oppose ■ Partially Oppose ■ Partially Support ■ Fully Support



7. Comments

9
Responses

Latest Responses

"Abandon fare rises after 23.00 hours as this has meant loss of work to car shar..."

8. Full Name

14
Responses

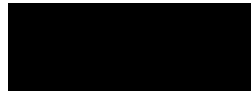
Latest Responses



9. Email Address

14
Responses

Latest Responses



10. Badge Number

14
Responses

Latest Responses



11. Please let us know your views on the options on taxi fares outlined in this consultation:

Option 1

Increase the mileage only

Freeze the minimum fare at £3.80

This option would increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 3%

Option 2

Increase start price and mileage

Increase the minimum fare by 5 pence (£3.80 to £3.85)

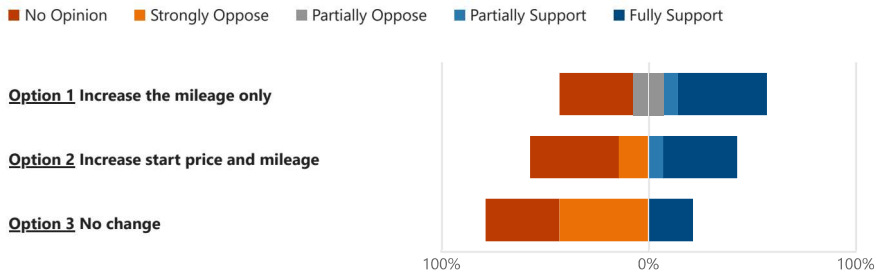
Increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 4%

Option 3

No change

Freeze the minimum fare at £3.80

Freeze Tariffs 1, 2 and 3



12. Comments

8
Responses

Latest Responses
"£9 Deal should be scrap "

13. Name of Person Completing Survey

2
Responses

Latest Responses

14. Email Address

2
Responses

Latest Responses

15. Name of Operator

2
Responses

Latest Responses

16. Operator Licence Number

2
Responses

Latest Responses

17. Please let us know your views on the options on taxi fares outlined in this consultation:

Option 1

Increase the mileage only

Freeze the minimum fare at £3.80

This option would increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 3%

Option 2

Increase start price and mileage

Increase the minimum fare by 5 pence (£3.80 to £3.85)

Increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 4%

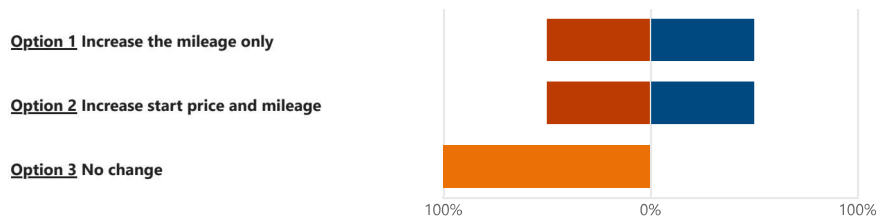
Option 3

No change

Freeze the minimum fare at £3.80

Freeze Tariffs 1, 2 and 3

■ No Opinion ■ Strongly Oppose ■ Partially Oppose ■ Partially Support ■ Fully Support



18. Comments

2
Responses

Latest Responses

19. Full name

0
Responses

Latest Responses

20. Email address

0
Responses

Latest Responses

21. Which of the following best describes how you use taxis?

When I use taxis, I go to a taxi r... 0

I pre book my taxis through a lo... 0

I use an app-based booking syst... 0

22. Please let us know your views on the options on taxi fares outlined in this consultation:

Option 1

Increase the mileage only

Freeze the minimum fare at £3.80

This option would increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by less than 3%

Option 2

Increase start price and mileage

Increase the minimum fare by 5 pence (£3.80 to £3.85)

Increase Tariffs 1, 2 and 3 by 4%

Option 3

No change

Freeze the minimum fare at £3.80

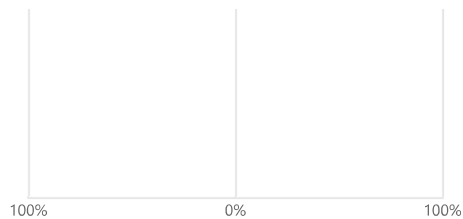
Freeze Tariffs 1, 2 and 3

■ No Opinion ■ Strongly Oppose ■ Partially Oppose ■ Partially Support ■ Fully Support

Option 1 Increase the mileage only

Option 2 Increase start price and mileage

Option 3 No change



23. Comments

0
Responses

Latest Responses

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